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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0904

March 16, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Lauren J. Bezlin
Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, Northwest
Room 808
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find correspondence from several of our constituents regarding proposed increases of VHF boating licensing fees.

I would appreciate it if you respond directly to our constituent with a copy to our office. If you have any questions, please contact Victoria Anderson at our Washington office located at 517 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-5274.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Connie Mack

Connie Mack
United States Senator

CM/vfa

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MAY 18 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Richard F. Landeck
1941 Fox Hollow Dr.
Auburndale, FL 33823

*Vic
Comm*

Sen. Connie Mack
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Proposed fee increase for Marine Radio Licence.

Dear Senator Mack:

I am deeply concerned about the safety of U.S. boating that the proposed increase in Marine Radio Licensing Fees as proposed by the FCC from \$35.00 to \$110.00.

I am, like many others who have small boats, licensed to have a marine radio on board. I have this radio for the safety it affords to my family by being able to: originate a distress call when necessary, receive weather updates, and to respond to others distress calls. The ability to call for help and to respond to others calls is very important today as the U.S. Coast Guards budget is being reduced and their ability to respond to the emergency calls deteriorates.

I feel that this increase is unwarranted and unjustifiable and will result in a serious decrease in marine safety as boaters opt to function without radios or attempt to use other modes like "CB" that are not intended for this use and are not as reliable.

I would appreciate your assistance in "Stopping the Insanity" of this FCC action.

Thank you for your assistance.

Richard F. Landeck
Richard F. Landeck

Peter Stephens
2130 Dyan Way
Maitland, FL 32751

March 2, 1994

Senator Connie Mack
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vic
Comm.

Dear Senator Mack,

It has just come to my attention through my membership in Boat/US Reports March Issue, that the FCC is considering raising the fee for licenses to operate VHF radios. I have no problem paying the current \$35.00 fee for the license. The proposed \$110.00 fee is totally out of line with what should be charged.

I recently used my marine radio to call for assistance when my boat became beached on a sand bar in the Florida Keys. The tide had run out, and I was facing the possibility of having to stay out in the open for at least 8 hours until the tide came back in. It would have been after midnight, and I don't know if you have ever experience the agony of the Florida saltwater mosquito, but I doubt it would have been pleasurable out on the sand bar after dark. With my marine radio, I was able to summon help through the Coast Guard station on Key West, for which I was extremely grateful. If I had to pay more than the current fee, I would probably not have had the radio with me or would have been considered a felon for using the radio to summon help.

Please do not let the FCC raise the fee for operator licenses. I fear that this will lead to a catastrophe that could be prevented if the fee was left as it is instead of increasing it. Don't make felons out of us over something as stupid as a licensing fee for something that saves lives.

Sincerely,


Peter Stephens

Sen. Connie Mack
241 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

VIC
COMM.

The proposal, by the FCC, to raise the license fee for marine VHF radios to \$110 is ridiculous. There is no way I could afford that fee. and I sure can't afford the fine for transmitting without a license. So if the fee is raised above \$35 I won't be able to use my radio. I'm a recreational boater and a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Without use of a VHF radio I will not be able to assist the Coast Guard as I presently do at least once a week.

Robert H. McCaw
Robert H. McCaw
1128 Pin Oak Circle
Niceville, Fl 32578

Bernard Lomrantz
284 Lookout Point
Osprey, FL 34229

3/2/94

U.S. SENATOR CONNIE MACK
517 HART SENATE BLOC.
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

V/V
COMM.

DEAR SENATOR MACK,

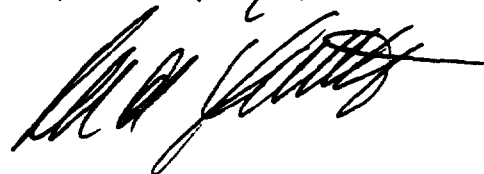
THEY ARE TRYING TO INCREASE FEDERAL LICENSING FEES
FOR MARINE V.H.F. RADIOS FROM \$35 TO \$110. COME
APRIL 1st

EVEN THE COAST GUARD IS ON RECORD OPPOSING THE
FEES FOR BOATERS BECAUSE OF SAFETY AND SEARCH
RESCUE CONCERNS.

FEWER PEOPLE HAVING V.H.F. RADIOS ON BOARD MEANS
FEWER PEOPLE ABLE TO GET WEATHER REPORT
UPDATES, CALL FOR HELP IN AN EMERGENCY OR
ABLE TO HEAR ANOTHERS CALL FOR HELP ON THE
WATER.

I HAVE A V.H.F. RADIO ON MY BOAT ALREADY
BECAUSE IT'S A NECESSITY - NOT A TOY OR A
LUXURY. I LIKE TO THINK OF MY V.H.F. RADIO
AS A SECOND MOTOR - WHICH WILL GET ME HOME
IF MOTOR #1 COOKS OUT.

DON'T LET THEM INCREASE THE FEES. WE HAVE
TOO MANY CLOSE CALLS AT SEA - EVEN WITH
THE EQUIPMENT.

THANK YOU


28 February 1994


Sen. Connie Mack
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-0903

VIC
COMM

Dear Sir:

It is my understanding that the Federal Communication Commission is considering increasing the user fees for VHF radios on recreational boats from the current \$35 to \$110. In my opinion this increase would result in many boat owners doing without VHF radios in their boats. Many people would no longer be able to receive weather updates, this could result in the loss of life. Because fewer people would have radios someone's call for help may go unanswered and the result could be loss of life.

Sincerely


Grady L. Ingram
1600 Vega Ave
Merritt Island, FL 32953

CC: Sen. Ernest Hollings
Chairman Senate Commerce Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Jim Bacchus
431 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515-0911

Rep. John Dingell
Chairman Energy & commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 4, 1994

CM
Connie

Senator Connie Mack
1342 Colonial Blvd, Suite 27
Ft. Myers, FL 33907

Dear Senator Mack:

I recently read in the March 1994 issue of Boat/U.S. "Reports", that the cost of an FCC license to operate a VHF marine radio could go from \$35.00 to \$110.00 effective April 1, 1994.

As a boat owner over the last 25 plus years, I have always owned and used a properly licensed marine radio. First with the original AM Band until it was banned in U.S. waters, then with the present VHF Band. I consider my VHF radio the most important safety device on my boat and I use it frequently for my own benefit, i.e. weather, radio telephone, and occasional assistance, as well as to help others on the water.

I am adamantly opposed to this outrageous and unwarranted increase in "user fee". If this proposed increase is approved, Congress will deal a severe blow to marine safety. Many boat owners will not take existing VHF radios aboard their boats and many new boat owners will not purchase VHF radios because of this excessive "user-fee". What a tragedy it would be if a boating family were lost at sea and unable to call for help. Why would Congress want to penalize the very people they should be helping?

Take the advise of the United States Coast Guard and reject this unjust fee and help us maintain reasonable ability to obtain help and information on the water when needed.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Watson

Robert E. Watson
2296 Lemon Street
St. James City, FL 33956

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March 2, 1994

Dear Senator Mack;

Our state is one of the states that have the most boats. VHF radios are very important to most boats. I just renewed my license for \$35.00. When my next renewal comes up and the price is too high I will just drop the license. There is no excuse for license fees to skyrocket. If this increase goes through most small boats will drop the license.

Yours Truly
John Keenan